



# H1N1 Provider Briefing

Date: February 24, 2010  
To: All Healthcare Providers  
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Re: Information on H1N1 in Rhode Island

**Local Influenza Activity Level:** Local<sup>1</sup>; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

**Rhode Island<sup>2</sup>:** 369 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths

**Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness):** Rhode Island: 0.75%<sup>3</sup>, New England Region: 0.70%, Nation: 1.97%

## **H1N1 Information Line to be discontinued**

In early March the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) will no longer field calls to its H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022). An automated message will direct callers to the main Information Line (401-222-5960). The 8022 extension is HEALTH's designated Emergency Information Line, used only to accommodate high call volume during emergency events.

## **H1N1 vaccine return policy**

The Wellness Company will now be handling returns of both non-viable and viable H1N1 vaccine from providers. Forms (attached to this briefing) must be filled out and then faxed to 401-222-3805 for approval.

## **Reporting reminder**

Please continue to report doses administered and physical inventory of H1N1 vaccine by 11:59 p.m. every Monday at <http://pandemic.health.ri.gov/h1n1/>.

## **Remaining free public vaccination clinic**

One remaining free public H1N1 vaccination clinic for adults 18 years of age and older is scheduled for Saturday, February 27 at East Greenwich High School (300 Avenger Dr, East Greenwich) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check the Flu Shot Finder on HEALTH's homepage ([www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)) for a list of other public clinics.

## **Weekly briefings to be discontinued**

HEALTH will now issue provider and partner briefings on an as-needed basis only. HEALTH will return to issuing briefings on a weekly basis if flu activity and demand for information increases. For the most up-to-date information on H1N1, see our website ([www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)).

## **Resources**

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>
- Archived provider briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- HEALTH Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-5960
- H1N1 email address [h1n1@health.ri.gov](mailto:h1n1@health.ri.gov)
- <http://www.flu.gov>

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of February 14 to 20, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

<sup>2</sup> Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

<sup>3</sup> Influenza-like illness activity reported by 23 sentinel surveillance sites from February 7 to 13, 2010

## H1N1 Return of Expired or Non-viable Vaccine

**1. In order to return non-viable vaccine**

Practice Name:\_\_\_\_\_

**Follow these procedures:**

1. Record the required vaccine information in the table below.
2. Fax report to **401-222-3805** for return authorization.
3. Pack viable vaccine and a copy of your approved return authorization into transport container.
4. Cold chain maintenance is not required.

PIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Return Authorization Status: (DOH use only)**

Status Issued by: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Vaccines Stored in Refrigerator (Appropriate temperature range 35°- 46°F or 2° - 8°C)**

[illegible]

### Questions:

## RI Department of Health H1N1 Program

**Phone: (401) 222-8022 / Fax: (401) 222-3805**

## H1N1 Return of Viable Vaccine

### 2. In order to return viable vaccine

Practice Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PIN: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Follow these procedures:

1. Record the required vaccine information in the table below.
2. Fax report to **401-222-3805** for return authorization.
3. Once return authorization is approved, contact The Wellness Company to schedule a date and time for return at 401-461-0662.
4. Pack viable vaccine and a copy of your approved return authorization into transport container.
5. Cold chain equipment/supplies, such as cooler, gel packs, etc. are the responsibility of the practice returning the vaccine.

#### Return Option:

#### Return Authorization Status: (DOH use only)

Status issued by: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Practice will return vaccine to local distributor

Practice will deliver to local distributor located in Providence, RI. Provider is to transport the vaccine in an approved cooler or insulated box with refrigerated gel packs and temperature monitoring devices in order to verify the acceptable 35-46\* F storage temperature.

Practice is to contact The Wellness Company at 401-461-0662 to arrange a date and time for delivery.

Include a copy of the approved vaccine return form in the shipping container.

#### Practice requests vaccine pick-up

Provider is to box up the vaccine in an insulated, approved, 48-hour vaccine delivery container with refrigerated gel packs and temperature monitoring devices in order to verify the acceptable 35-46\* F storage temperature.

Include a copy of the approved vaccine return form in the shipping container.

### Vaccines Stored in Refrigerator (Appropriate temperature range 35° - 46°F or 2° - 8°C)

Vaccine Brand Name	Manufacturer	Lot #	Expiration Date	# of Doses	Reason for return / Emergency action taken

#### Questions:

**RI Department of Health H1N1 Program**

**Phone: (401) 222-8022 / Fax: (401) 222-3805**